THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Out of 1826 complaints received during 2006-07 (upto December), 128 complaints are regarding unhygienic food served in trains. Action like counseling, warning, fine and termination of contract have been taken on the complaints found substantiated.

(c) and (d) Reputed caterers and private companies in catering/hospitality business, are invited to participate in the bidding process for award of contract for comprehensive on board catering services.

Pending rail projects

†527. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rail projects worth thousand of crore rupees have been pending with his Ministry for years together;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that his Ministry has constituted a high-power Committee to review these projects;

(c) if so, the names of the projects lying pending over past several years; and

(d) by when these projects would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Railways have a huge throwforward of projects requiring over Rs. 54,000 crore for completion. The funds are limited and projects are being progressed as per the availability of resources keeping in view the operational requirements and other considerations.

(b) Yes, Sir. An Empowered Committee has been constituted to review progress of works costing more than Rs. 100 crore.

(c) The names of the ongoing projects is given in the Budget Documents.

(d) It is not feasible to give definite time schedule for completion of ongoing projects. However, a number of initiatives have been taken to generate non-budgetary resources through cost sharing with States, Public-Private Partnership, Defence Funds and National projects to expedite completion of these projects.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.